

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2005.

Applicant thanks the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") for the allowance of Claims 35 and 36. Applicant requests amendment of the application to add new Claims 37-40, which depend from Claim 35, and new Claims 41-44, which depend from Claim 36. New Claims 37-44 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims and for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Further, applicant has carefully considered the prior art and submits that Claims 24-33 are also patentable over the prior art. Claims 24-33 and 35-44 are pending in the application. Allowance of the same is requested.

Patentability of Claims 24-33

In the July 11, 2005, Office Action, the Office cited Cofino as allegedly disclosing an antenna for receiving an amplitude-modulated carrier signal at a modulation frequency and a transistor connected to the antenna and configured to operate as a detector of modulation of the amplitude-modulated carrier signal. As to the latter element, the Office cited Col. 4, lines 60-67, of Cofino, which reads as follows:

VPMR and VNMR are voltages related to VDD and the ground potential respectively by well known current mirror circuit techniques using p-type and n-type transistors respectively. In a preferred embodiment, the RF antenna 32 has two connections to the tag 30, denoted here by lines 50 and 58. Line 58 is the conventional ground. Other preferred embodiments have a capacitor attached to one terminal of the antenna.

As can be observed from the foregoing and further from Figure 2 of Cofino, it is evident that Cofino does not teach or suggest "a transistor connected to the antenna and configured to

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operate as a detector of modulation of the amplitude-modulated carrier signal." VPMR and VNMR are control voltages. A transistor is not shown connected to the antenna 32, let alone a transistor configured to operate as a detector of modulation of the amplitude-modulated carrier signal.

Applicant further denies that Cofino can be properly combined with Hasler as suggested by the Office in the Office Action. The mixing stage disclosed by Hasler is for an FM radio receiver while Claim 24 concerns a receiver circuit that receives and acts on an amplitude-modulated carrier signal. Hasler is deficient in that it teaches a circuit that operates to oscillate at the carrier frequency. In contrast, Claim 24 recites "a resonator circuit connected to the transistor and configured such that the transistor simultaneously self-oscillates at substantially the modulation frequency to produce an oscillation signal."

Hasler is also deficient for failing to teach or suggest "oscillating sensing means connected to the resonator circuit and arranged to receive the oscillation signal and for sensing characteristics of a build-up of oscillation to indicate a presence of the amplitude-modulated carrier signal" as claimed. The Office erred in alleging that the control circuit 8 in Minakuchi satisfies this deficiency. The oscillating sensing means must be connected to the resonator circuit and be arranged to receive the oscillation signal and sense characteristics of a build-up of oscillation to indicate a presence of the amplitude-modulated carrier signal

Further, with regard to quenching, the combination of Cofino and Hasler is not properly combinable with the teachings of Minakuchi. Hasler employs a feedback circuit to control the oscillator circuit to provide a stable oscillator signal at the frequency of the carrier signal. A skilled person would not substitute the quenching taught by Minakuchi in the circuit of Hasler as such would render Hasler's feedback circuit inoperative for its intended purpose.

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Applicant has also considered the citations to Forster GB'323, Forster US'685, and Brekelmans. These references do not overcome the deficiencies in the Cofino, Hasler, and Minakuchi references discussed above. For at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 24 is patentably distinguished over the prior art and accordingly should be allowed. Claims 25-33 are also patentable for their dependence on allowable Claim 24 and for the additional subject matter recited therein.

CONCLUSION

The claims in the application are in condition for immediate allowance and should not require substantial effort on the part of the Office to reconsider and allow the application. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments requiring resolution prior to allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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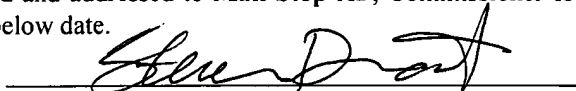


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